

1840  
Boston, Jan. 4, 1839.

58 Dear George:

A host of good wishes is springing from my heart for your happiness, and that of every member of our dear family circle, not only during the present year, but for all time — all eternity. I know not how months, weeks and days go with you, (though I can easily guess) — but with me they pass like lightning flashes. I know not what it is to have a moment hang heavily on my hands, from one year's end to another. O, how many things I find it in my heart to do — and yet, alas! how very few of them I accomplish! Still, I am busy, busy — all the time busy — almost too busy to find time to eat. On my very knees, I beg you all at Brooklyn graciously to pardon me for not writing to you oftener. Indeed, I hardly write, now-a-days, at all. And yet I love you all dearly — as much so, as if I sent you a whole quire of letters daily. Though out of sight, none of you are out of mind — O no! It is only those who are destitute of affection — who do not know what love is — who can forget.

The new year finds us, at home, in the enjoyment of perfect health, and happy in mind, though empty in purse. The boys are thriving finely — but Willie is a none-such! Though not yet two years old, he talks with almost as much fluency as George. O, he is a darling! so fair, so plump, so good-natured, so cheerful, so every thing that is good!



George goes to school quite regularly, and bids fair to be a good scholar. He is slowly improving in his temper, and his paroxysms of disobedience are becoming fewer and less violent. But he has a tremendous will of his own, and is even more obstinate than his father — "a chip of the old block," and something more.

We are looking for mother daily. Helen will rejoice to see her, and so shall I. It is some time, however, since we heard any thing from her. Helen wrote to her a few days ago, but no reply has been received. We take it for granted that she is at Charlotte's, and trust she is well.

[After a great deal of trouble, we have finally got our arrangements made with friend Knapp. The committee of reference awarded him \$175 — being \$125 less than was proposed to him in the conference of friends at Loring's office. He is in a very miserable state of mind, and very much embittered in his feelings, I am sorry to say, toward us all, and myself in particular. I have scarcely had any conversation with him, on this account. You will be glad to perceive, that Loring and Philbrick are added to the committee of finance for the Liberator — making a very respectable and solid committee. It is of great service to the paper, to have such men act in such a capacity. The prospect before us is fair, and full of encouragement. I anticipated a great falling off of subscribers at the close of the volume, but I think we have never had so few leave us before. This is certainly very remarkable. We have had some discontinuances, to be sure; but many new subscribers have been added to our list. We



start with entirely new materials in our printing-office, and the appearance of the paper is much improved. }

How sorry I am to say, that it will be utterly out of my power to be with you at Hartford on the 8th inst. But what I cannot do, I cannot. I know how great will be the disappointment of the Connecticut friends - your own - and all the household at Brooklyn. And, what is worse, Quincy tells me that he will not be able to go. He made the attempt before - got half-way, or past way - was forced to stay in the cars all night, and then return home, in consequence of the storm. The annual meeting of our State Society takes place on the 22d. With a thousand other things I have to do between that brief space and this, I have the Annual Report to write, reviewing the events of the past year - which must, of necessity, be a very long and elaborate document. O, I groan to think of it! Not a syllable of it is yet prepared - nor can I get one hour to devote to it; and yet it must be all written before the meeting. Dear George, you see how I am situated: therefore, apologize for my absence to the friends at Hartford. If I can possibly get time, I mean to write a letter to Cowles, to be read at the meeting - but it is doubtful whether I shall succeed. I will do the best I can, and who can do more? Do not fail to be at the meeting yourself, and save Connecticut abolitionism from the political gulf which yawns to devour. And by all means be at our annual meeting on the 22d, if possible: we shall need your presence on many accounts. Love to dear Mary, Sarah, Anna, Catharine, &c.

Yours, truly,

Wm Lloyd Garrison.



13 I am distressed and mortified to think that I cannot send you, in this letter, the money that ~~is~~ is due you. I have \$400 owing to me on my salary, &c. but cannot get any of it at present. In the course of this month, shall doubtless get it all. My creditors annoy me by their duns - but they must wait.

Single - Paid.

George W. Benson,

Brooklyn,

Connecticut.